

Responsive to the 9/12/06 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, please replace the earlier submitted versions of Amendment A (mailed April 16, 2006 and July 17, 2006), with the following Revision 2 of Amendment A:

DESCRIPTIVE PORTION OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please make the following changes in the descriptive portion of the specification, to align said descriptive portion with the amended claims and drawing, while not adding any new material not supported by the original specification and claims:

p. 3, line 5, change as follows:

Fig.s 13A, 13B and 13C show aft views ~~Fig.s 13a, 13b and 13c show aft views~~ of other preferred embodiments related to the embodiment of Fig. 3.

p. 3, line 17, change as follows:

Fig.s 24A and 24B show side views ~~Fig. 24 shows a side view~~ of a pogo-ski embodiment fitted with a tow cable fitting.

p. 13, line 23, change as follows:

The ski 7 in Fig. 4 is a downhill ski 7A, and has a ~~The ski 7 in Fig. 4 is a downhill ski 7A, has a~~ ski shovel 25 at its forward end. The ski 7 has a camber 28 combined with a thickness distribution wherein the ski is thicker in its middle region (34) than at locations near the forward (35) and aft (36) ends of the ski 7, to foster the appropriate distribution of the point load from the user's weight over the length of the ski.

p. 15, lines 1-3, change as follows:

Fig. 6 shows an aft view of the embodiment of Fig. 4 and Fig. 5. In this aft view of the pogo-ski 1, it can be seen that the ski 7 further comprises sharp cornered edges 32 along the lower left and right corners of said ski 7 when viewed from the rear or in transverse cross-section. These sharp cornered edges also facilitate “carved” turns and enable a ski sideward-skidding braking technique, as is known from the prior art in ski construction and use ~~corners of said ski 7 when viewed in transverse cross-section. These sharp cornered edges also facilitate “carved” turns and enable a ski sideward-skidding braking technique, as is known from the prior art in ski construction .~~

p.20, lines 15 and 20, change as follows:

Fig.s 13A, 13B and 13C show aft views of other preferred embodiment of a pogo-ski related to the embodiment of Fig. 3. Fig. 13A ~~Fig. 13a~~ shows an aft view of an embodiment of a pogo-ski 1 similar to that of Fig. 3, but provided with an aft linking cable 61 looped around a primary aft pulley 60 and guided around that by a right aft guide roller 60R and left aft guide roller 60L at a location aft of the right lower post 6R and left lower post 6L, in addition to the linking cable 19 looped around the primary pulley 20 at a location forward of the right lower post 6R and left lower post 6L. Also, in the embodiment of Fig. 13A ~~Fig. 13a~~ the linking cable 19 and aft linking cable 61 are both connected at their lower left and right termini to the foot enclosing surfaces 39 associated with the left foot support 4L and right foot support 4R, respectively. The linking cable 19 and aft linking cable 61 will preferably have some elasticity or stretch and at least a minimal amount of damping, to allow some at least minimally damped pitching rotation of the left and right foot supports, and some at least minimally damped concurrent up/down translation of the left and right foot supports, in addition to the one up & other down motions of the left foot support 4L and right foot support 4R that would be permitted even if the linking cables were fully inelastic and undamped.

p.21, line 5, change as follows:

The embodiment illustrated in Figure 13A ~~Figures 13a~~ provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said left foot support connecting means 5L and said right foot support connecting means 5R coupled together (through said left foot support 4L and its foot enclosing surfaces 39, right foot support 4R and its foot enclosing surfaces 39, and linking cable 19 and aft linking cable 61) provide at least one spring in the connection between said left foot support 4L and said right foot support 4R on the one hand, and said lower post (6L and 6R) on the other hand, with a spring element in the linking cable 19 looped around the primary pulley 20 attached to the lower post (6L and 6R) and a spring element in the aft linking cable 61 looped around the primary aft pulley 60. The embodiment illustrated in ~~Figures 13a~~ provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said left foot support connecting means 5L and said right foot support connecting means 5R coupled together (through said left foot support 4L and its foot enclosing surfaces 39, right foot support 4R and its foot enclosing surfaces 39, and linking cable 19 and aft linking cable 61) provide at least one damper in the connection between said left foot support 4L and said right foot support 4R on the one hand, and said lower post (6L and 6R) on the other hand, with a damper element in the linking cable 19 looped around the primary pulley 20 attached to the lower post (6L and 6R) and a damper element in the aft linking cable 61 looped around the primary aft pulley 60.

p.21, line 22, change as follows:

Fig. 13B ~~Fig. 13b~~ shows an aft view of a variant embodiment of a pogo-ski 1 wherein a hexagonal cross-section lower post 6H is attached to the ski 7 by lower post connecting means 9 incorporating a detachable connection fitting 65. A hexagonal cross-section upper post 10H is telescopically connected with the hexagonal cross-section lower post 6H at upper post connecting means 11 which includes a locating bolt 62 which engages lined-up holes in said upper and lower posts, and can

engage different holes to locate the hexagonal cross-section upper post 10H and therefore the right handhold means 12R and left handhold means 12L at different levels or heights, because the right handhold means 12R and left handhold means are connected to the hexagonal cross-section upper post 10H through the illustrated bifurcated handhold connection means 15. Note that in variant embodiments quick-release latches or other mechanisms known from the prior art could be used in lieu of the locating bolt 62 for setting the height of the handhold means. In this embodiment the hexagonal cross-section lower post 6H is configured with a left track 63L on its left side and a right track 63R on its right side, along which tracks the left foot support connecting means 5L and the attached left foot support 4L, and right foot support connecting means 5R and the attached right foot support 4R, respectively are permitted to move up and down. The left foot support connecting means 5L is suspended by left bungee cord 64L and the right foot support connecting means 5R is suspended by right bungee cord 64R, which provide elastic force support to the user's left and right feet respectively, as well as at least some minimal damping of the vertical motions of the left and right foot supports.

p.22, line 18, change as follows:

The embodiment illustrated in Figure 13B ~~Figures 13b~~ thus provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein the lower post connecting means 9 provides a detachable connection (65) between said ski 7 and said lower post 6H. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 13b also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said left foot support connecting means 5L provides a spring (by left bungee cord 64L) in the connection between said left foot support 5L on the one hand, and said lower post 6H on the other hand. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 13b also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said right foot support connecting means 5R provides a spring (by right bungee cord 64R) in the connection between said right foot support 5R on the one hand, and said lower post 6H on the other hand. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 13b also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said lower post 6H is of noncircular

cross-section. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 13b also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said upper post 10H is of noncircular cross-section. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 13b also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said upper post connection means 11 includes means for setting the height of said handhold means (12L, 12R) at different levels, including use of a locating bolt 62 as described.

p.23, line 9 through p.24, line 10, change as follows:

Fig. 13C ~~Fig. 13e~~ shows another variant embodiment of a pogo-ski 1, comprising in combination: a ski 7 providing means for sliding on a sliding surface 8, a lower post 6B (of rectangular cross-section in this embodiment) projecting upward from said ski 7 and connected to said ski by lower post connecting means 9, a left foot support 4L (of a stirrup type in the illustrated embodiment) connected by left foot support connecting means here comprising left bungee cord 64L to said pogo-ski 1 above said ski 7, which left foot support 4L serves as means for supporting the left foot of a user, a right foot support 4R (of a stirrup type in the illustrated embodiment) connected by right foot support connecting means here comprising right bungee cord 64R to said pogo-ski 1 above said ski 7, which right foot support 4R serves as means for supporting the right foot of the user, and handhold means 12 for being holdable by at least one hand of the user, which handhold means 12 are connected by handhold connection means 15 to an upper post 10B (of rectangular cross-section in this embodiment), which upper post 10B is connected by upper post connecting means 11 to the lower post 6B and which upper post 10B is substantially located above the lower post 6B. The bungee cords can stretch differentially as the user puts more weight on one or the other, with the left bungee cord shown more stretched in the illustration in Fig. 13C ~~Fig. 13e~~. This embodiment also permits the user to deliberately swing each foot support and bungee cord sideways or forward or backward when so desired.

The embodiment illustrated in Figure 13C ~~Figures 13e~~ also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said lower post 6B is of noncircular cross-section. The embodiment illustrated in Figure 13C ~~Figures 13e~~ also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein said upper post 10B is of noncircular cross-section. The embodiment of Fig. 13c also illustrates a pogo-ski 1, wherein the handhold means 12 comprises a single bar 12S suitable for holding by either one or both hands of a user, and the handhold connection means 15 comprises left and right connecting rods 15L and 15R respectively going down from the left and right sides of the single bar 12S down to a connection fitting 67 on top of the upper post 10B.

p. 26, lines 1-7, change as follows:

~~The embodiment illustrated in Figures 15 provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein the left foot support 4L and the right foot support 4R each include a foot plate 38 on which the left foot and right foot of a user, respectively, can be supported. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 15 also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein the left foot support 4L and the right foot support 4R each include strap means 71 connected to the foot plate, which strap means 71 restrain lateral and upward movement of the left foot and right foot of the user, respectively. Note that the strap means 71 may be adjustable, buckled, and/or elastic, and/or of other type and design as known from strap prior art.~~

The embodiment illustrated in Figure 15 provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein the left foot support 4L and the right foot support 4R each include a foot plate 38 on which the left foot and right foot of a user, respectively, can be supported. The embodiment illustrated in Figures 15 also provides a pogo-ski 1, wherein the left foot support 4L and the right foot support 4R each include strap means 71 connected to the foot plate, which strap means 71 restrain lateral and upward movement of the left foot and right foot of the user, respectively. Note that the strap means 71 may be adjustable, buckled, and/or elastic, and/or of other type and design as known from strap prior art.

The embodiment of Figure 15 also shows a pogo-ski 1, comprising in combination: a single ski 7 providing means for sliding on a sliding surface (not shown here but corresponding to sliding surface 8 of Fig. 1) and user interface means (i) providing a left foot support 4L and a right foot support 4R for supporting the feet of a user and (ii) providing handhold means 12L and 12R for being holdable by at least one hand of said user; wherein said user interface means comprises in combination: (i) said left foot support 4L located above said single ski 7 and connected to said single ski by left connecting means 5L including means for permitting said left foot support 4L some measure of spring force affected vertical movement relative to said single ski (through the use of springs 43BL and 43TL in the illustrated embodiment); (ii) said right foot support 4R located above said single ski 7 and connected to said single ski by right connecting means 5R including means for permitting said right foot support some measure of spring force affected vertical movement relative to said single ski (through the use of springs 43BR and 43TR in the illustrated embodiment); and (iii) said handhold means 12L and 12R located above said single ski 7 and connected to said single ski 7 by handhold connecting means comprising post means including an upper post 10 and a lower post 6 for connecting said handhold means with said single ski, wherein said upper post 10 is connected by upper post connecting means 11 to said lower post 6 and wherein said upper post 10 is located substantially above said lower post 6, and wherein said lower post 6 is connected by lower post connecting means 9 to said single ski 7. Fig. 15 also shows an embodiment wherein said left connecting means 5L including means for permitting said left foot support 4L some measure of spring force affected vertical movement relative to said single ski 7, and said right connecting means 5R including means for permitting said right foot support 4R some measure of spring force affected vertical movement relative to said single ski 7, together contribute to bouncing means for enabling said user to deliberately and repeatedly bounce while skiing on said pogo-ski 1.

Note also that the illustrated lower post connecting means 9 may incorporate detachable connecting means like prior art ski safety-release bindings.

The embodiment of Figure 15 also shows a pogo-ski 1, comprising in combination: a ski 7 providing a laterally substantially contiguously located sliding means (here the illustrated bottom surface of the ski 7) below a user (not shown but corresponding to user 2 of Fig. 1) for said user to slide down a sliding surface (corresponding to sliding surface 8 of Fig. 1); a left foot support 4L located above and connected to said ski 7 by left coupling means 5L for permitting variable left spacing between said left foot support 4L and said ski 7 (through the use of springs 43BL and 43TL in the illustrated embodiment); a right foot support 4R located above and connected to said ski 7 by right coupling means 5R for permitting variable right spacing between said right foot support 4R and said ski 7 (through the use of springs 43BR and 43TR in the illustrated embodiment); and handhold means 12R and 12L for being holdable by at least one hand of said user, which handhold means are located above and connected to said ski 7. Fig. 15 also illustrates an embodiment of a pogo-ski 1 wherein said left coupling means 5L comprises left spring coupling means and wherein said right coupling means 5R comprises right spring coupling mean and wherein said left spring coupling means and said right spring coupling means are mutually independent and together enable said variable left spacing and said variable right spacing to vary independently of each other. Note that the left coupling means 5L and right coupling means 5R may optionally incorporate pitch-axis and/or roll-axis and/or yaw axis hinge means for permitting some rotational movement of the left foot support 4L and the right foot support 4R respectively. Note also that the illustrated configuration of a pogo-ski will permit a user to impart a rolling moment on said single ski 7 by shifting his or her weight laterally or by shifting the amount of his or her weight acting on said left foot support 4L as compared with the amount of his or her weight acting on said right foot support

4R or by applying a rolling moment to said handhold means 12R and 12L; and will permit a user to impart a yawing moment on said single ski 7 by pushing forward with a foot on either the left foot support 4L or the right foot support 4R or by applying a yawing moment to said handhold means 12R and 12L.

The embodiment of Figure 15 also shows a pogo-ski 1, comprising in combination: a single snowboard 7 (wherein the wide illustrated single ski is a snowboard); handhold means 12L and 12R for being holdable by at least one hand of said user, which handhold means are connected to said snowboard 7 by a post 6; a left foot support 4L connected to said post by left post coupling means 5L for permitting said left foot support 4L to move to varying left height locations along said post (through the use of springs 43BL and 43TL in the illustrated embodiment); and a right foot support 4R connected to said post by right post coupling means 5R for permitting said right foot support 4R to move to varying right height locations along said post (through the use of springs 43BR and 43TR in the illustrated embodiment). The illustrated embodiment also shows the pogo-ski 1 wherein said left post coupling means 5L comprises left sprung coupling means and wherein said right post coupling means 5R comprises right sprung coupling means and wherein said left sprung coupling means and said right sprung coupling means together facilitate unweighting of said snowboard 7 by said user for at least one of turn initiation or bouncing or other purposes. The illustrated embodiment also shows a pogo-ski 1 wherein said post 6 provides a connection between said snowboard 7 and said handhold means 12L and 12R which is substantially rigid in yaw and pitch.

p.37, lines 1-3, change as follows:

Fig. 24A shows a pogo-ski 1, wherein a snow ski 7S supports a lower post 6 to which foot supports are attached (left foot support 4L is visible in this view, and here comprises a plate-like foot support with a pitch-axis rotational degree-of-freedom). The lower post is fitted with an optional tow fitting 93, to which a tow cable 94 can be detachably connected (tow cable shown in connected configuration). ~~The upper end of the lower post 6 supports an upper post 10 through upper post connecting means 11, and the upper post 10 in turn supports a handhold 12 through handhold connecting means 15.~~ The upper end of the lower post 6 supports an upper post 10 through upper post connecting means 11, and the upper post 10 in turn supports a handhold 12 through handhold connecting means 15. As illustrated, the upper post connecting means 11 includes means for setting the height of the handhold means 12 at different levels and comprises a telescopic slidable connection between the upper post 10 and lower post 6 and includes a quick-release mechanism 41.

p.37, lines 10-11, change as follows:

Fig. 24B shows a pogo-ski 1, wherein the ski is a water-ski 7W with an optional water keel 80K. The water-ski 7W supports a lower post 6 to which foot supports are attached (left foot support 4L is visible in this view, and here comprises a water-ski type foot support suitable for engagement by a bare foot of the user). The upper end of the lower post 6 supports an upper post 10 through upper post connecting means 11. The upper post is here fitted with an optional tow fitting 93, to which a tow cable 94 can be detachably connected (tow cable shown in connected configuration). ~~The upper post 10 also supports a handhold 12 through handhold connecting means 15.~~ The upper post 10 also supports a handhold 12 through handhold connecting means 15. In the illustrated embodiment note that the post (including lower post 6, upper post 10 and upper post connecting means 15) is nonlinear such that relative to a line connecting (i) an upper end of said post adjacent to said

handhold means 12 and (ii) a lower end of said post adjacent to said snowboard 7, a middle portion of said post between said upper end and said lower end is located such that said middle portion lies forward of said line. Thus by visual inspection Fig. 24B shows an embodiment wherein said pogo-ski 1 is configured such that said pogo-ski 1 does not contact or engage with the buttocks of a user during normal use of said pogo-ski by said user. This illustrated nonlinear post configuration will also facilitate a reduced likelihood of a user hitting said post with his or her knees as they bend and yaw. Note that in variant embodiments of either snow or water-ski versions of pogo-skis, optional tow fittings could be located attached to either or both of the lower and upper posts.

p. 53, lines 3-4, change as follows:

~~This invention relates to recreational equipment for winter use, such as skis, snowboards, or other equipment with snow runners for use by a person such as a skier or snowboarder.~~ This invention relates to recreational equipment for use on a sliding surface, such as skis, snowboards, or other equipment for use by a person such as a skier, snowboarder or water-skier. This invention provides a pogo-ski comprising a ski and a post thereon which is fitted with foot supports and a handhold suitable for use by a standing user.